

## RUSSIAN FORCE GERMANS FROM TOWN IN POLAND

Kaiser's Troops Abandon  
Serpent, on Vistula, to  
Czar's Advance Guard.

## SHARP ARTILLERY DUELS IN PROGRESS

### SUMMARY OF THE WAR NEWS.

In the fighting to the north of Sosen, on which the interest in the western theatre of operations at present is centered, the French from their position on the Heights of Vreigny. The Kaiser himself witnessed the engagement in which this success was obtained. The French official communiqué admitted the loss of these positions. The French line at this point has fallen back across the Aisne. The French official statements attribute the defeat at this point to the flooding of the Aisne, which destroyed the military bridges and made impossible the sending of reinforcements.

Vreigny is on the right of the French position north of Sosen. On the rest of this battery contested front the French say that they have held their position, even have made unimportant progress.

On the eastern front the Russians claim progress on the right bank of the lower Vistula, with the repulse of the German cavalry and the abandonment by the Germans of the town of Serpiz to the Russian advance guard. The Russian official statement says that Russian attacks to the southeast of Glinbinnen, East Prussia, and east of Loetzen have been repulsed, and that many hundreds of prisoners have been taken.

## RUSSIANS ADVANCE ALONG THE VISTULA

German Cavalry Driven Back After  
Sharp Fighting.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The following official statement was issued here today: Yesterday the Russian army drove back the bank of the lower Vistula developed, everything being favorable to our troops. The enemy's cavalry operating in this region was driven back and abandoned Serpiz to our advance guard. On the remainder of our front there was nothing more than rifle and artillery duels and some resistance work by our troops. Local attacks by the Germans in certain places on the left bank of the Vistula have been everywhere repulsed with ease.

## RUSSIANS IN NEW DRIVE.

German Communications in East  
Prussia Threatened.

London, Jan. 14.—The report of a new Russian drive toward East Prussia, which threatens the German railway communications, is the striking news from Petrograd tonight. The czar's troops are apparently striking further west than when they were to Tannenberg in a previous move and were defeated.

That the German staff is aware of this new move is indicated by despatches from Amsterdam, which say that all ordinary railway traffic to East Prussia is to be suspended for four days in order to allow of military movements.

## CAPTIVES BURDEN RUSSIA

400,000 Prisoners Give Government  
Problem of Maintenance.

Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The number of prisoners of war is so large that their maintenance begins to burden the Russian Government, which in the last of times is not too well supplied with money. According to official reports from the front, the number of German and Austrian military prisoners taken since the beginning of the war is 400,000. The recent defeat of the Russian army in the Caucasus and the fighting in Poland, Bukovina and Transylvania have brought the total up to nearly 500,000.

## MORE RUSSIAN ACTIVITY.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
London, Dec. 14.—The Daily Mail correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs under yesterday's date:

Today begins the Russian New Year, and, unfortunately, the Russian Government is at this time engaged in a battle of activity along the whole front. It has been announced that the full in the operations which lasted over a fortnight is at an end. The enemy appears ready to take the offensive, and they will have to be forced upon them. The Russians in every direction are prepared to deliver heavy blows, and will soon add to their present forces 500,000 young and energetic men.

At present such tactics as are in evidence are all on the Russian side, the latest movement being in East Prussia.

## SAYS 'GERMAN' URGED PEACE TO LAST HOUR

Britain Was First Nation to  
Adopt Military Measures.  
Declares the Chancellor.

The German Press Bureau in New York gave out the following statement yesterday as a despatch from Berlin:

By DR. VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG  
the German Imperial Chancellor.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 24, 1914.—The speech made by Prime Minister Viviani in the French Chamber contains a passage to the effect that on July 31 France and Russia had consented to the English proposal to stop all military preparations and to enter negotiations in London. If Germany had consented, he said, it would have been possible to preserve peace to this very last hour.

The finding a way out of the difficulties of the French Chamber is untrue. Since I cannot deny the falsehood from the tribune of the German Diet at present I consider it necessary to transmit the following statement with the request to make the furthest possible use of it:

The British conference proposal which is printed in the British White Book under No. 36 bears the date of July 26. Its substance was that representatives from Germany, France and Italy should meet Sir Edward Grey in London for the purpose of finding a way out of the difficulties which had originated in the Serbian question. Germany from the commencement took the stand that the Austro-Serbian conflict was a matter that affected only the two states immediately concerned. Sir Edward himself acknowledged that view later on.

Germany had to decline the British conference proposal because she could not admit that Austria-Hungary in a question of vital importance to her national interest should submit to a tribunal of the great Powers. The German White Book shows that Austria-Hungary too regarded the conference proposal as unacceptable. By her declaration of war on Serbia she had made it quite clear that she meant to regulate the Serbian question alone and without any interference on the part of the Powers. At the same time, however, in order to satisfy all just Russian claims she declared that she did not covet any Serbian territory.

### Serbian Question Developed.

As Russia was not content with this assurance, the Serbian question developed into a European question, which first declared itself in a tension between Austria-Hungary and Russia. In order to prevent a further escalation of the conflict, a new ground had to be found on which mediation could be tried by the Powers.

It is Germany's merit to have entered that ground first. Our Secretary of State, Von Jagow, had an interview with the British Ambassador on July 27. In the course of this interview, which was held in Russia's desire for direct negotiation with Austria-Hungary, a relaxation of the situation and the best prospect for a peaceful settlement was discussed. According to the Russian opinion, eliminated for the time being the British conference idea, was from the first day the subject of the mediation proposed by Germany to the best of her power. It is not possible for any state to have endeavored with more honesty and sincerity for the peace of the world than Germany did.

England herself now abandoned her conference proposal and likewise supported the idea of direct negotiations between Berlin and Petersburg (White Book 67). But these negotiations met with difficulties and created the two central Powers, but by the three Powers of the Entente. If Germany's endeavors were to succeed, not only was the good will of the Entente Powers, but the peace of the world, which was necessary, but the Powers principally concerned had, furthermore, to keep quiet, for if either of the two Powers had taken the initiative in proceeding by taking military measures it was evident from the beginning that the action which was under way could never be successful.

Now I come to the good will of the Powers. The French Yellow Book clearly shows the attitude of France. She did not trust German assurances. Every step taken by the German Ambassador, Baron von Schoen, was received with distrust. His wish that France should exercise a restraining influence at St. Petersburg was disregarded, for were not the steps of Baron von Schoen merely meant to compromise France in the eyes of Russia (a compromise in France au regard de la Russie)? It is quite evident from the French Yellow Book that France did not take a single positive step in the interests of peace.

### England First to Act.

Now as to England's attitude. In the diplomatic conversations she gave herself the appearance as if up to the last hour she were acting as mediator. But her outward action tended to humiliating Germany and Austria-Hungary. England was the first great Power to order military measures to be taken on a large scale and thereby to create a feeling, especially in France and Russia, that was bound to damage in the highest degree any steps taken in the cause of mediation. The report of the French Charge d'Affaires in London of July 27 (Yellow Book No. 66) shows that as early as July 24 the chief in command of the British fleet had taken secret measures for concentrating the fleet at Portland. Therefore Great Britain mobilized earlier than Serbia herself.

Moreover, she exerted a restraining and moderating influence in St. Petersburg. The reports of the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg showed clearly that she mobilized only after she had seen that her mobilization could save the situation. But Sir Edward Grey did not act upon these reports. He let things take their course. At the same time he tried to stop her mobilization by clearly pointing out to Germany and Austria-Hungary that England likewise might take part in a European war. By doing this he laid the foundation for the English attitude at the conference in London, which made it appear that she wished Austria-

### LIFT BAN ON CODE MESSAGES.

Restriction on Telegrams to Ha-

wali Is Removed.

Restrictions on wireless messages in code between the United States and the Hawaiian Islands were removed at a conference yesterday between officials of the Navy Department and the representatives of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America. The Hawaiian Islands were placed on the same footing as that on the Atlantic seaboard. The codes authorized are Western Union, Lieber's, A. B. C. (5th edition), Bentley's, Broomfield's, and the Morse code. The wireless service between San Francisco and Honolulu was opened on September 24 last.

### CODE MESSAGES ALLOWED.

Commercial Cable Company An-

nounces New Rules.

On and after to-day the British censorate will allow the use of code messages to or from the territory of Allied States, as follows:

1. Between places in the Allied countries in Europe on the one hand and places in colonial possessions, British territory of Allied or neutral Powers outside of Europe on the other.
2. Between places in their colonial possessions which are situated outside of Europe.

Code messages exchanged with places in British territory must for the present be drawn up in one of the four following codes: A. B. C. (5th edition), Lieber's, Scott's tenth edition, Western Union. But as regards messages exchanged with other places where code is permitted the Allied Powers have been informed that they may use any code, of whatever code they prefer. The name of the code used to be signalled in the service instructions.

### KAISER FETES CANCELLED.

Money Usually Spent on Birthday

Will Be Devoted to Charity.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Paris, Jan. 14.—The North German Gazette announces that all festivities which are usual on the Kaiser's birthday on January 27 have been cancelled. The money usually spent on this occasion will be devoted to charity. The Prussian Ministry has issued a notice forbidding all birthday fetes, but recommending that religious celebrations be held instead.



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Von Bethmann-Hollweg.

The German Chancellor in uniform at the front.

## AUSTRIAN EMPEROR HONORS BERTCHTOLD

Decorates Him With Grand  
Cross of the Order of  
St. Stephen.

VIENNA, via Amsterdam and London, Jan. 14.—The Official Gazette publishes Count Berchtold's letter from Emperor Francis Joseph to Count Berchtold accepting his resignation as Foreign Minister. After expressing his warmest thanks and full recognition of the "distinguished services you have rendered to my house and to the monarchy in times of peace as well as during this great war," the Emperor continues:

"It is with regret that I see you sever yourself from these functions, and I confer upon you as a token of my continuous affection the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen."

### STRONGER MAN NEEDED.

Berlin Papers Discuss Resignation

of Austrian Premier.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 14.—Berlin newspapers make a great feature of the resignation of Count Berchtold as Austrian Foreign Minister, without giving any illuminating cause for his action. All the German papers express appreciation of his loyalty to the Emperor.

The Vossische Zeitung says: "Count Berchtold's decisive opinion in reference to the relations of Austria and Italy must not be forgotten."

The Berliner Tageblatt says: "One of the political effects of the resignation of Count Berchtold will be the establishment of a new relation with Italy, at least a diminution of the existing difficulties."

A Vienna despatch to the Berlin Tageblatt, referring to the many reasons for Count Berchtold's resignation, suggests that it was due to the Emperor's opinion that a stronger personality was needed at the head of foreign affairs in the present circumstances. The correspondent refers mysteriously to certain incidents which cannot be discussed publicly as the cause of the Emperor's decision, and adds that when peace negotiations eventually begin a man of tougher fiber than Count Berchtold will be needed.

The Morning Post prints an article by the correspondent in London of a Hungarian newspaper, who was the most prominent tool of the Austro-German militarists.

The writer says that the policy of the late Count von Aehrenthal, which Count Berchtold continued, has shaken the foundations of the dual monarchy, and that it is impossible to disconnect the latter's resignation from the incessant rumors of Russian disintegration.

Baron Burian, the successor of Count Berchtold, is so identified with Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, the correspondent says, that his appointment amounts to the same as if Tisza himself had been appointed. He suggests that it is intended as a move to persuade the Hungarians that the Magyar nation has assumed the upper hand in the dual monarchy's foreign policy.

The Emperor could not afford to remove Count Tisza's iron hand from Hungary just now and therefore he chose somebody to represent him.

Burian is also persona grata to the Slavs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is as capable as any one of handling the question of the southern Slavs, which demands paramount attention in the present crisis. The writer thinks that Count Tisza intends in this way to counterbalance the independence movement in Hungary.

### Sees Disintegration of Dual Monarchy.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Jan. 14.—The Temps says the reasons for the resignation of Premier Berchtold of Austria-Hungary are obscure owing to the fact that there are

ten different kinds of public opinion in the dual monarchy.

It is probably the result, the paper says, of one of the episodes of the disintegration of the dual monarchy in which the Foreign Minister does not wish to remain any longer a powerless onlooker.

### AUSTRIANS MAKE GAINS.

All Austrian Attacks Along the Nida

Failed, Says Vienna.

VIENNA, Jan. 14.—The following official announcement was issued today: All hostile attacks on our strong front along the Nida River have failed. In the past there have been no important engagements in the other theatres.

Announcement was made also that the Russian troops who invaded Hungary through Uzes Pass had been defeated by Austro-Hungarian troops in the valley of the upper Ung River and had retreated toward the pass.

The Russians are being pursued in an attempt to cut off their retreat.

### Columbia Peace League to Meet.

Columbia men will hold a public mass

meeting at 8:30 this evening in Earl Hall to perfect their organization to oppose the increase of armaments in the United States.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, the Rev. John Haynes Holmes and the Rev. Frederick Lynch will be the speakers. It is expected that the question will be made the subject of debate between teams representing Yale, Harvard and Princeton.

### POPE REPLIES TO KING ALBERT.

Cardinal Mercier Incident Closed,

Says Pontiff.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, Jan. 15.—The Havre correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "I learn on high authority that the Pope has replied cordially to King Albert's telegram in regard to Cardinal Mercier, saying that he does not regard the incident as grave and in fact considers it closed."

The correspondent says he learns that Cardinal Mercier is still under arrest in the palace.

### DROPPED BOMBS ON ANTWERP.

British Aviators Attacked German

Positions, Says Newspaper.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Jan. 14.—The Telegraph prints the statement today that British aviators flew over Antwerp last Monday and dropped bombs on the German positions there.

The newspaper adds that no information has been received as to the damage done.

### Belgians Must Swear Allegiance.

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AMSTERDAM, Jan. 14.—The Courant states that all Belgian functionaries at Ghent have had to take an oath of allegiance to the German Government.

### QUEEN OF SHEBA'S GEMS PUZZLE FOR D. F. MALONE

What Was Her First Name? Asked When Huge

Diamonds She Is Said to Have Worn Are

Subject of Customs Examination

Who was the queen of Sheba?

A queen without a throne?

A jack-o'-lantern monarch?

Ask Dudley Field Malone.

He has two gems she sports.

And glories in their glow.

Just as the Jewish king did.

Three thousand years ago.

She wore them in her earrings.

Below bright emerald cubes.

And fitted through Jades.

Astonishing the rabies.

Was Solomon she puzzled.

With riddles quite her own.

And now she puzzles ship news men—

And Dudley Field Malone.

—Dred of the Custom House.

The man responsible for the sudden activity yesterday in the Custom House of Sheba's gems was Dudley Field Malone, in ethnology, Egyptology, Assyriology and Old Testament literature is A. Antokadjan of Constantinople. Mr. A. & Co. happened to bring in two very big diamonds, designated by Collector Malone as "pill-lants," which he admitted through his counsel, D. A. Levett, he had not declared when he landed here several weeks ago. And the reason he had not declared them, according to his counsel, was because they were antiques, belonging originally to the Queen of Sheba, and therefore, being "more than 1900 years old," were not dutiable.

A halt was called in the investigation and it was ascertained that the Queen of Sheba was surely several hundred years more than 1900 years old. The Collector, after hearing an encyclopedic synopsis of the Queen read by Special Deputy Collector Stuart, asked if anybody could prove anything about the queen and her habits, and if there was any record of her having worn earrings formed of emeralds an inch square with diamond pendants.

Mr. Stuart had to admit that most of the information concerning the Queen was purely traditional, that nobody even knew her first name or any other of her names. He inferred that she might have been like Solomon and David and Moses, having the front names and surnames all in one.

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### FLOODS MAKE ALLIES' ADVANCE DIFFICULT

English Eyewitness Describes

Artillery Fights and Slow

Work in Flanders.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, Jan. 14.—An "eyewitness" account of the fighting in Flanders and northern France, written by a member of Sir John French's staff, which covers the operations of the British forces through January 11, was made public today by the official press bureau.

No infantry actions of importance are recorded. The British artillery has been active and has maintained its superiority, according to the account. The River Lys has risen six feet and has flooded a large area of low lying country, the width of the river being two miles in some places. The account follows:

"During Friday, January 9, and Saturday, January 10, nothing much occurred beyond the more or less continuous artillery and mortar duels, wherein our superiority was maintained. On Friday our trench mortars destroyed another house near Neuve Chapelle used by German snipers, and also stopped the enemy's attempts to sap."

"Near Messines our guns shelled a detachment of about 300 infantrymen with considerable effect. Similar satisfactory reports of the action 11 our artillery came from different parts of the battle front."

"On Saturday the fire of a certain number of our guns concentrated upon an area immediately west of La Bassée was particularly effective and a prisoner told us that the casualties of the enemy numbered from 150 to 300."

"Sunday, January 10, was one of the finest days we had for some time. In the afternoon our troops retook an observation post on a railroad embankment southeast of Ghent, which we had evacuated on January 9. We also retook a machine gun emplacement, which we ultimately gave up owing to its exposed position. This observation post, however, remained in our hands despite three counter attacks of the Germans. During Sunday night the German artillery was more active than it had been for some days."

"On the centre of our anti-aircraft guns fired upon and hit a German aeroplane, forcing it to return to its own lines. On January 11 our artillery shelled Neuve Chapelle with good results, and also the triangular position of the Germans opposite our centre. Some direct hits were obtained on houses which German snipers had been using. Despite the high winds our aviators continued to go aloft for scout duty."

"In consequence of the almost continuous rain we have been compelled to struggle against natural forces almost of greater importance than the Germans. The River Lys has risen six feet, flooding a large area of low lying country. Dikes, canals and ditches are also out of their banks. In many places the rivers have overflowed their banks, flooding the German lines. There are big flooded districts below Arras, in France. Near Menin and Courtrai, on the Franco-Belgian border, the River Lys has risen until it is two miles from bank to bank in some places."

"A certain amount of desertion from the enemy's ranks has been caused by the hardships entailed by storms, floods and lack of food and creature comforts. The difference in quality of the men making up the German reinforcements from those that formerly reached the front is marked. The Landwehr units were spoken of in high terms, but the men of the Landsturm make only indifferent soldiers. Nevertheless the only signs of weakening among the Germans that can be traced to the general situation and the failure of nearly all the German counter attacks."

"In one respect the personnel of the enemy has improved. It seemed that soldiers under 15 years of age were sent to the rear some time ago. These youths were used to stop gaps until more seasoned troops were available for the ranks. The new formations which took the field in October contained many such, and right well did they fight."

### Irving National Bank

NEW YORK